

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 221

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: YOUR MEETING WITH ROGER

GALLOPIN, PRESIDENT, ICRC (S/S NO.7503077

GENEVA, FOR S/S AND ALDRICH AND BETTAUER

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM BUFFUM

1. ROGER GALLOPIN, PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, ASKED TO MEET YOU IN GENEVA FOR A FEW MINUTES TO DISCUSS "MIDDLE EAST MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST," AND YOU HAVE AGREED TO DO SO. OUR MISSION IN GENEVA IS SETTING UP THE APPOINTMENT AND HAS TENTATIVELY ARRANGED ONE FOR 8:30 AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17. BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN FINAL PARAGRAPH BELOW.

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2. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT SPECIFIC MIDDLE EAST SUBJECTS MR.

GALLOPIN WANTS TO TALK ABOUT. AS YOU KNOW, THE ICRC PLAYED A KEY ROLE DURING AND AFTER THE 1973 YOM KIPPUR WAR, IN EVACUATING WOUNDED AND REPATRIATING PRISONERS, BUT IS NOT ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THIS WORK NOW. ONE SUBJECT GALLOPIN MIGHT WANT TO RAISE WITH YOU IS SYRIAN JEWS. CAIRO HAS REPORTED (CAIRO 1527) THAT DURING AN INTERVIEW SADAT GRANTED TO CODEL IPU AND SOLARZ, SOLARZ RAISED THE ISSUE OF SYRIAN JEWS, 30 OF WHOM WISHED TO JOIN RELATIVES IN THE U.S., AND ASKED FOR SADAT'S INTERVENTION WITH SYRIAN AUTHORITIES. SADAT SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO SPEAK FOR ASAD AND SUGGESTED THAT THE PROBLEM COULD BE BEST SOLVED BY YOU. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PREDICAMENT OF SYRIAN JEWS HAS COME TO GALLOPIN'S ATTENTION.

3. ONE OF THE ITEMS BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, NOW MEETING IN GENEVA, IS PERENNIAL ONE OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. THE US HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE APPLICABILITY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION TO THE ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL. THE ICRC HAS REPRESENTATIVES BOTH IN ISRAEL AND IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IT MAY BE THAT THE ICRC HAS INFORMATION BEARING ON THIS ISSUE WHICH IT WISHES US TO PASS TO ISRAEL BUT WHICH, BECAUSE ISRAEL DENIES ICRC'S STANDING WITH REGARD TO RESIDENTS OF ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, IT CANNOT DO SO DIRECTLY.

4. THERE ARE SEVERAL SITUATIONS AROUND THE WORLD IN WHICH THE ICRC IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND WITH WHICH WE HAVE HAD SOME CONNECTION. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SOME OF THESE MIGHT BE RAISED BY GALLOPIN:

A. ETHIOPIA. USG, ALONG WITH ITALY AND SUDAN, HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM ICRC DELEGATE GENERAL IN GENEVA TO SUPPORT ICRC EFFORTS IN ETHIOPIA. USG IS BOUND BY GENEVA CONVENTIONS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THEM, AND ARTICLE 3 OF THE CONVENTIONS RESPECTING CONFLICTS NOT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER CLEARLY APPLY TO CURRENT SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA SINCE ETHIOPIA IS PARTY TO THE CONVENTIONS. WE HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR MISSION IN GENEVA TO REQUEST MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING ICRC'S INTENDED ACTIVITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND WE HAVE REQUESTED EMBASSIES KHARTOUM, ROME AND ADDIS TO REPORT ON INTENTIONS OF SUDAN AND ITALY WHICH ALSO WERE APPROACHED BY DELEGATE GENERAL. IF ICRC INTENTIONS APPEAR REASONABLE AND FEASIBLE WITHIN CONTEXT OF RED CROSS CONVENTIONS, WE ENVISION A COORDINATED REPRESENTATION BY EMBASSY ADDIS AND SUDANESE AND ITALIAN EMBASSIES THERE TO PMG TO REQUEST THAT PMG DO WHAT IT CAN TO FACILITATE HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES OF ICRC IN

ETHIOPIA.

B. CHILE. ICRC REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA AND IN SANTIAGO COMPLAINED TO OUR MISSIONS OF TECHNICAL OBSTACLES BEING PLACED BY THE CHILEANS IN THE WAY OF VISITS TO PRISONERS, PRIVACY OF INTERVIEWS AND OBTAINING LISTS OF NAMES OR WHEREABOUTS OF KNOWN DETAINEES. THEY ASKED FOR HIGH LEVEL INTERVENTION WITH GOC TO FACILITATE THEIR OPERATIONS. FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION OF EMBASSY SANTIAGO THAT HIGH LEVEL APPROACH WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED EMBASSY TO SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A LOW-KEY APPROACH EMPHASIZING THE ARGUMENT THAT GOC COOPERATION WITH ICRC COULD REDOUND TO GOC BENEFIT IN REBUTTING TORTURE CHARGES.

5. SIEVERTS OF D/PW AND ALDRICH AND BETTAUER OF LEGAL ADVISER'S OFFICE, ALL KNOWLEDGEABLE ON ICRC MATTERS, ARE NOW IN GENEVA, AND SECRETARY'S PARTY MAY WISH TO CONSULT WITH THEM IN ADVANCE OF MEETING WITH GALLOPIN.

6. TALKING POINTS.

-- USG CONTINUES TO BE GRATEFUL FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND HUMANITARIAN ROLE PLAYED BY THE ICRC THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, MOST RECENTLY IN CYPRUS AND FOLLOWING THE 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR.

-- ANY INFORMATION THE ICRC HAS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH WILL SHED LIGHT ON WAYS TO REDUCE TENSION IS MOST WELCOME AND WILL BE CAREFULLY STUDIED.

-- IF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF, YOU MAY WISH TO REITERATE CONTINUING USG INTEREST CONCERNING MIA'S IN INDOCHINA AND URGE GALLOPIN TO DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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URGE ON HANOI A HUMANITARIAN RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM.

7. BIOGRAPHIC DATA: GALLOPIN WAS BORN IN SWITZERLAND IN 1909. HE IS A LAWYER BY PROFESSION AND HAS BEEN WITH THE ICRC SINCE WORLD WAR 11. AFTER SERVING IN A VARIETY OF EXECUTIVE CAPACITIES, HE BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN 1973. INGERSOLL

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